

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-05 INR-10 L-03 ACDA-12
NSAE-00 PA-02 SS-15 SP-02 USIA-15 TRSE-00 OMB-01
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-----076002 011718Z /40

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FM USMISSION USNATO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9646
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UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 USNATO 02110

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MPOL, NATO, US

SUBJECT: US FY-1979 DEFENSE POSTURE STATEMENT

REF: USNATO 1556 (DTG 151903Z FEB 78)

1. THERE FOLLOWS IN PARA 3 THE PROPOSED TEXT OF A COVERING LETTER FROM THE AMBASSADOR/CHARGE TO SYG LUNS FORWARDING COPIES OF SECRETARY BROWN'S ANNUAL REPORT TO THE CONGRESS TO LUNS AND ALL PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES. HOWEVER, WE HAVE NOT YET RECEIVED THE NECESSARY COPIES OF THE POSTURE STATEMENT, EVEN THOUGH SOME 16 COPIES WERE MAILED TO THE MISSION BY OSD/ISA ON FEBRUARY 3, AND AN ADDITIONAL 35 COPIES MAILED ON FEBRUARY 23.

2. ACTION REQUESTED: WASHINGTON APPROVAL OF DRAFT LETTER BY OPENING OF BUSINESS MARCH 3.

3. BEGIN TEXT OF DRAFT LETTER TO SYG LUNS:

.
. ATTACHED IS A COPY OF SECRETARY BROWN'S ANNUAL REPORT TO THE CONGRESS - "POSTURE STATEMENT" - FOR FISCAL YEAR 1979, WHICH DESCRIBES IN DETAIL THE DEFENSE POLICIES AND PROGRAMS ADOPTED BY THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION.

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. YOU WILL FIND, I BELIEVE, THAT THE FY-1979 BUDGET PROVIDES A CLEAR EARNEST OF THE ADMINISTRATION'S PLEDGE TO ENHANCE THE US CONTRIBUTION TO THE ALLIANCE. THE BUDGET CALLS FOR A FUNDAMENTAL REORDERING OF US PRIORITIES, PLACING PARTICULAR EMPHASIS ON STRENGTHENING THE COLLECTIVE DEFENSE OF WESTERN EUROPE. IT REFLECTS THE CONCERN WE SHARE WITH

OUR ALLIES OVER THE INCREASINGLY PRECARIOUS BALANCE BETWEEN NATO AND THE WARSAW PACT AND DEMONSTRATES THE MEASURE OF OUR RESOLVE TO DO OUR PART IN MAINTAINING HIGH CONFIDENCE DETERRENCE FOR THE ALLIANCE. WE LOOK TO OUR ALLIES TO DO THEIR PART.

. IN ACCORD WITH 1977 MINISTERIAL GUIDANCE, THE BUDGET PROJECTS ANNUAL REAL INCREASES IN DEFENSE SPENDING (OUTLAYS) OF ABOUT 3 PERCENT OVER THE NEXT FIVE YEARS.

. - TOTAL OBLIGATIONAL AUTHORITY (TOA) REQUESTED FOR FY-79 AMOUNTS TO \$126 BILLION, COMPARED TO \$116.8 BILLION (CURRENT DOLLARS) FOR FY-78.

. - FY-79 OUTLAYS ARE ESTIMATED AT \$115.2 BILLION, COMPARED TO \$105.3 BILLION IN FY-78.

. - FOR THE YEARS FY-1980 TO FY-1983, OUTLAYS ARE PROJECTED AT \$125.8 BILLION, \$136.5 BILLION, \$147.9 BILLION AND \$159.5 BILLION, RESPECTIVELY.

. MOST IMPORTANTLY, THE BUDGET ALLOCATES SUBSTANTIAL NEW RESOURCES FOR MODERNIZING AND IMPROVING OUR CONTRIBUTION TO NATO, PARTICULARLY IN THE AREAS OF READINESS, REINFORCEMENT AND ANTI-ARMOR. FOR EXAMPLE, PLANNED EXPENDITURE FOR "GENERAL PURPOSE FORCES" -- PRIMARILY FOR NATO -- WILL RISE
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BY ABOUT 4 PERCENT IN REAL TERMS. SOME OF THE MORE SIGNIFICANT NATO-ORIENTED INITIATIVES INCLUDE:

. - THROUGH IMPROVED AIRLIFT AND PREPOSITIONING OF ADDITIONAL SETS OF DIVISION EQUIPMENT IN EUROPE, WE PLAN BY 1983 TO BE ABLE TO AUGMENT IN-PLACE FORCES BY FIVE DIVISIONS AND 60 TACTICAL AIR SQUADRONS WITHIN 10 DAYS, COMPARED TO APPROXIMATELY ONE DIVISION AND 40 SQUADRONS AT PRESENT.

. - OVER THE NEXT FIVE YEARS, THE US PLANS TO ACQUIRE ABOUT 5,000 TANKS (INCLUDING THE NEW XM-1), 24,000 LONG- AND MEDIUM-RANGE ANTI-TANK GUIDED MISSILES, AND 2,000 TACTICAL AIRCRAFT (F-15, F-16, A-10).

. - TO MEET THE WARSAW PACT ARMOR THREAT, THE US WILL ACCELERATE DEPLOYMENT OF THE A-10 CLOSE AIR-SUPPORT AIRCRAFT AND INCREASE THE NUMBER OF THESE AIRCRAFT TO BE STATIONED IN EUROPE.

. - BY OCTOBER 1979 WE WILL HAVE INCREASED US FORCES IN EUROPE BY 8,000 SOLDIERS, ADDED THREE ADDITIONAL ARTILLERY BATTALION EQUIVALENTS, AND RAISED THE AUTHORIZED

MANNING LEVEL FOR SELECTED UNITS IN EUROPE.

. - TO FURTHER ENHANCE READINESS, THE US PLANS TO INCREASE MUNITION STOCKS, CONSTRUCT ADDITIONAL FORWARD STORAGE SITES, AND UPLOAD AMMUNITION ON SELECTED COMBAT VEHICLES.

. THE FY-1979 DEFENSE BUDGET REFLECTS A MAJOR REORDERING OF US PROGRAMS TO MEET COLLECTIVE DEFENSE NEEDS. ACCOMPANYING THIS EFFORT IS OUR EXPECTATION THAT ALL ALLIES WILL BE WILLING TO TAKE COMPARABLE STEPS, ESPECIALLY IN ESTABLISH-

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ING THE NECESSARY FINANCIAL BASIS AND ADJUSTING FORWARD PLANS, TO ACCOMMODATE THE RECOMMENDATIONS CONTAINED IN THE LONG-TERM DEFENSE PROGRAM.

. I AM PROVIDING A COPY OF THIS LETTER AND SECRETARY BROWN'S REPORT TO ALL PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES.

END TEXT. GLITMAN

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